

WIDOW WHO WINS 15 YEARS' FIGHT WANTS \$300,000

100 Property Owners Affected by Decision That She Was Common Law Wife.

TO CLAIM HER DOWER.

Referee Rules in Favor of Mrs. Mary A. Cohnfeld in Test Case.

More than one hundred persons in Greater New York who bought property from Isador Cohnfeld, who died in 1904, have just learned that the titles to their purchases are not clear, because Mrs. Mary A. Cohnfeld has established that she was Cohnfeld's "common law" wife and is entitled to a one-third interest in his estate.

Mrs. Cohnfeld, who for years has fought penury and privation, has won a fair way to collect about \$300,000 as her share in her dead husband's estate. The estate of John A. Furlong was sued in the Supreme Court by Mrs. Cohnfeld to establish her rights, Furlong having purchased from Cohnfeld for \$19,000 a property at Eighth avenue and One Hundred and Sixth street in 1887.

Charles S. Simpkins, of No. 27 William street was appointed referee in the case and decided that Mrs. Cohnfeld was entitled to her dower interest in the purchase price.

The Furlong suit only establishes Mrs. Cohnfeld's rights, and she will now proceed to collect what is due her from other real estate deals of her late husband. The property involved is said to be worth \$2,000,000 now.

Isador Cohnfeld, the husband, died in 1904, after a most exciting business career. Mrs. Cohnfeld did not assert that she was married by religious or civil ceremony to Cohnfeld, but made her claim under the common law.

Cohnfeld's first wife died in 1876. The present Mrs. Cohnfeld was employed as an expert worker in his big factory at Greene and Bleecker streets, where he was a manufacturer of artificial flowers and an importer of fine feathers. He was at the head of this branch of commerce in his time. And he was very wealthy.

There were five children by his first wife. There is an existing one in his life, the daughters marrying into wealthy families, and the sons being solidly established in business before the manufacturer's own business troubles sent him in retirement in Canada for a long period, and finally reducing him to a pauper. In supplementary proceedings, where he swore that all his fortune had been stripped from him.

He had lived most luxuriously and was passionately fond of thoroughbred horses, owning some of the finest in the land. He was the owner of Maxey Cobb and Neta Medlum, held a record of 2 1/4 for many years. The Earl of Russia offered him, through an American agent, \$85,000 for Maxey Cobb, but he declined it.

Cohnfeld failed for \$1,000,000 in 1887. There had been a falling out with his wife, and he departed shortly thereafter for Canada.

At this time his big granite factory was one of the most imposing business blocks in the city. As it stood gaunt and blackened after the fire, there was a sad appearance to the place, and about the place were gathered many of the "ghosts" turned out to be a curious fashion that steam from a nearby building had of settling and rolling slowly in fantastic forms along the ridge of the roof.

ADMITTED IN COURT SHE WAS HIS WIFE. In 1904 Cohnfeld appeared in supplementary proceedings in this city. At these proceedings he was asked: "With whom do you live now in One Hundred and Fourth street?"

"My wife, Mary Cohnfeld." "When did you marry her?" "I don't remember," was the reply. "Was it five years ago?" "I guess so." "Was it ten years ago?" "I refuse to answer."

The evidence that he gave in these supplementary proceedings was put forward in the matter that has just been decided in the woman's favor. Lawyers Berg and Hodges asserted that in the period of 1880 to 1887 Cohnfeld had sold many pieces of property but had not conveyed a clear title, since he designated himself as a widower. The present Mrs. Cohnfeld therefore claims a dower right share in all this property.

Mrs. Cohnfeld is now fifty-one years old. She has a son twenty-two years old.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR FIGURE

First of a Series of Articles by Prominent New York Physicians for the Women Readers of The Evening World.

"Avoid Fats, Starch, Sweets and Drink," Says Dr. Elmer Lee, Famed as Health Culturist --- Fat Due to Bad Digestion.

Massage, Rolling, Bathing and Banting Are Useless as "Reducers" and Even Dangerous, He Declares, and Fastening Only Weakens.

By Marguerite Mooers Marshall.

How can you keep your figure? Lillian Russell is the very latest contributor to the text book of thinness. Miss Russell's Spartan suggestion is a combination of heavy blankets and lighted electric bulbs, in close juxtaposition with the body.

"It's awful," she sighs, "but it's reducing." To more New Yorkers than Miss Russell the tragedy of the too, too solid flesh is real and poignant. So all instructions for preventing surplus weight, and for diminishing it when prevention is no longer possible, are always of interest. Yesterday I had a talk with Dr. Elmer Lee, editor of "Health-Culture," and lecturer on hygiene, on the subject of "fat."

"People grow fat," began Dr. Lee, "through a combination of indigestion and non-assimilation. They begin by eating the wrong sort of food or too much. The digestive tract cannot perform the work laid upon it. The undigested food isn't assimilated, worked over into blood and muscle, and unassimilated organisms are deposited in various parts of the body wherever there is a vacant space to receive them. They collect and so do surplus flesh, soft, flabby and unmuscular, even though it may not be directly unhealthy. This is fat, and, like any other animal fat, can only be directly dissolved by extreme heat."

"Is that why Turkish baths are efficacious for stout people?" I asked. "BATHS, MASSAGE AND BANTING OF NO AVAIL."

"But they are not efficacious as reducers," asserted Dr. Lee. "The Turkish or steam bath subjects the body to the conventional seasoning and perhaps an extra vegetable."

"For tea he may eat sliced peaches or any other fresh fruit with bread sliced thin. Dinner will naturally be more elaborate, with a vegetable soup, beans, peas, macaroni, tomatoes, bread and stewed fruits. There are delicious ways of preparing vegetables with fruit sauces. Fruit sherbets, prepared with our milk, make wholesome and appetizing desserts. An hour before bedtime the sixth meal, a light lunch of fruit, may be taken."

"It is not necessary that a person eat six meals a day. No one should take food only when he is hungry. But the more of this sort that he feels like absorbing, the better for him. He should eat as much as he pleases at each meal, and should choose among the reasonable fruits and vegetables those which best please his palate."

MUST BAR ALL DRINKS BUT A LITTLE WATER. "There must be no tea or coffee or alcoholic drinks, and not much water. It is best not to drink any with the meals, and everybody ought to be able to get along with one glass of water a day."

"The properly nourished individual should be like the wild birds or wild horses, taking water only in occasional sips. Of course, candy and cakes and pastry should be barred."

"The action of the diet on the system is to strengthen it and to prevent the formation of any more fat. Not thinned by too much water, the circulation of the blood improves, and the general health is greatly benefited. As for the fat already accumulated, a strong, active, built up by perfect digestion, will readily dispose of it."

"Do you recommend any special exercises?" I inquired. "Most people get sufficient exercise through the work they do," replied the doctor. "I don't believe in any exaggerated strenuousness. Baths are no good, except in the ordinary way for purposes of cleanliness. Fasting is distinctly bad, as it weakens the body instead of strengthening it."

"The diet he ate in the kitchen, and it will do its work inside of a month or six weeks. But if it is adopted in time there will be no need for reducing."

BRONX BOY DROWNED.

Richard Weiss Lets Go of Boat in Lake and Sinks.

LITTLETON, N. Y., Aug. 2.—Richard Weiss, sixteen years old, was drowned today while boating on Lake Liberty, two and one-half miles from Liberty. Weiss was spending his vacation at the Pleascher House with his brother and some friends. They went on the lake nearly every day. To-day Richard was boating at the end of a rowboat while his brother and a companion were in the boat and facing from him.

It is supposed that he was attacked by cramps and released his grasp upon the end of the boat. Neither of the two boys in the boat saw him go down, and he made no outcry. When they discovered that Richard was missing an alarm was given. The lake is being drained. The young man was a son of Henry Weiss, a dealer, who lives in the Bronx.

NEGRO RACE DYING OUT?

RICHMOND, Va., Aug. 2.—Dr. Ernest Levy, chief health officer of Richmond, has come to the conclusion, after close comparative study of the mortality statistics of this and other cities, that the American negro is slowly and steadily dying out, and will be virtually extinct in the twenty-first century.

The colored race, he points out, with 25 per cent of the population of Richmond, has 96 per cent of the deaths, and the birth rate is equally against the colored race.

Col. Astor and Miss Force Leaving Fiancee's Home for Newport

(Copyright, 1911, by Paul F. Tompkins.)



Col. Astor and Miss Force leaving their fiancee's home for Newport.

NEWPORT, R. I., Aug. 2.—The Astor-Force romance was brought to the marble thresholds of Newport society today upon the arrival of the yacht Noma with its owner, Col. John Jacob Astor, his fiancee, Miss Madeline Tallouge Force, her mother, Mrs. William H. Force, and a small army of friends. As soon as the Noma anchored shortly after 10 o'clock William Vincent Astor ran out in a launch from Brenton's Cove to welcome his father, his future son-in-law and her family. The young man greeted Miss Force with great enthusiasm. They have been good friends since they met in Bar Harbor a year ago. Both are skilful with the racket and played together in one of the summer tennis tournaments.

MISS FORCE APPEARED ON DECK RADIANTLY HAPPY. The betrothed of Col. Astor appeared radiantly happy as she stood beside her future husband, who pointed out the various objects of interest in the harbor. Soon after the yacht came to anchor the Astor party, were brought ashore and motored to Beechwood, the Astor mansion, where Col. Astor's mother, Mrs. William Astor, rejoined for years as Newport's social sovereign. Many beautiful floral tributes arrived while Col. Astor was showing his fiancee and her mother about the house and grounds. It was their first visit to the Astor home here.

Mrs. Ogden Mills was the first to call at Beechwood to present society's official welcome to Miss Force and her family. This means that there is no power in America that can come between the future Mrs. Astor's social standing. In fact, the summer colony demonstrated early in the day that it was ready to accord Col. Astor and his bride-elect the most gracious reception possible, notwithstanding the clamor of criticism over the discrepancy in the ages of the engaged couple, the announcement of the engagement started.

Col. Astor has always been popular in Newport society, and Mrs. Mills was the first to come forward and offer to act as the charming Miss Force's chief interpreter with cable, telegraph and letter awaited the Colonel at Beechwood. Also there were cards for many social functions, including an invitation to Mrs. John H. Drexel's dance to-morrow and for the dance Mrs. Edwin J. Herwig is giving Saturday.

FLUTTER IN SUMMER COLONY AT NEWPORT. The announcement of the engagement and the arrival of the Forces in Newport to make their entry into the inner circles of the elect has caused a great flutter in the summer colony here.

While rumors of the engagement were rife no announcement was expected until fall, so that no elaborate preparations were made in advance to entertain the twenty-year-old beauty who may some day aspire to be the first lady of the American aristocracy. Col. Astor's enormous wealth and the position his family has held for a century offers every necessary foundation for such aspirations, although her beautiful predecessor, Mrs. Alice Willing Astor, never made the battle for social supremacy.

That Col. Astor should bring his fiancee to Newport immediately after the announcement of the engagement was taken to mean that he had been assured by his friends, Mrs. Ogden Mills and Mrs. John H. Drexel, that Miss Force would be as royally welcomed as if she had been born and raised within the charmed circle and was not merely making her way in via Brooklyn and the outskirts of Bar Harbor. As a Tallouge Mrs. Force was accustomed to tread upon the upper coast of Brooklyn society, but until Col. Astor became vastly interested in the younger of her two beautiful daughters her name did not appear upon the golden tablets of the select of the so-called New York "Four Hundred."

At several of the splendid entertainments given by Col. Astor last winter his fiancee was a guest and made her bow to the little group of matrons who rule the social sphere, but it was not reported at the time that she was taken in with open arms. Now, however, she is to receive the brand of the Pharisees, and for that reason, it is argued, Col. Astor seized the opportunity to bring his future wife to share in the gaiety. He himself has been making some hurried plans for a big entertainment at which to present Miss Force in the role of the soon-to-be Mrs. John Jacob Astor. Directly after the arrival of the Noma today the report gained currency that the marriage would take place next month at Newport, that is, before the summer colony disperses on a number of the fall campaigns at Tuxedo and Lenox. The marriage cannot take place in New York City, because of the terms of the divorce action granted to Mrs. Ava Willing Astor.

That Newport will be the scene of the wedding is practically certain, but whether it will be a comparatively quiet or brilliant occasion has not been determined. Col. Astor, it is said, is rather in favor of a less elaborate ceremony. The Forces, on the other hand, hold the opposite view, but not so strongly that the final decision of Col. Astor will not prevail.

Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Anna Sands, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Whitehouse, Lady Grand, T. Gerry, Mrs. Henry A. Taylor and other prominent society people here are planning dinners and other affairs for the Astor bride.

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If the story were not so absolutely ridiculous, said Mr. Force, it would be unworthy of notice. It requires denial because it is more than absurd; it is grotesque.

Vincent Astor is a fine type of young American. He has called at our home with his father and he knows both my daughters. I happen to know that he will enter college this fall and will keep him from thoughts of matrimony for probably three years.

ASTOR IN NEWPORT WITH FIANCEE IS WARMLY GREETED

Social Leaders Plan Brilliant Receptions for Miss Force During Stay.

WEDDING NEXT MONTH.

Fashionables Hear Date for Ceremony is Near and Event Will Be Notable.

(Special to The Evening World.)

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Rozella, a brawny six-footer, nineteen years old, came to this country about a year ago to marry Sophie Penedites, who had sailed away from Sumlin, Pa., two years ago, after pleading eternal fidelity to the youth of her heart. Kalk became apprenticed to a master musician in Milwaukee, and promptly proceeded to fall in love with the daughter of the house. But he kept up his correspondence with Sophie, and when she sent him \$50 for his passage money, he came right on to South Sharon and married her his happy bride.

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Mrs. Lillian Kennedy, wife of a well-known member of the New York Bar, according to R. J. S. Putnam of No. 21 Nassau street, who appeared for her in the Supreme Court today before Justice Bradley, was arrested on June 17 on a charge of disorderly conduct proffered by the keeper of a restaurant at No. 600 Eighth avenue, but discharged by a lieutenant in the West Thirty-seventh street station when he "heard the case."

Mr. Putnam asked Justice Bradley for a peremptory writ of mandamus directing Police Commissioner Rhinelander Waldo to furnish to him the entry made by the Restaurant at the West Thirty-seventh street station in order to properly prepare his case for the trial of a suit against the restaurant proprietor to recover for false arrest.

The attorney for Mrs. Kennedy refused to give any details of the matter when questioned. "We do not know even the name of the policeman who made the arrest," said the lawyer. "We had the number of a policeman who was thought had made the arrest, but on investigation we learned that the policeman who owns that number was in Brooklyn at the time. The facts are all admitted by the answer put in by the Corporation Counsel, but the Police Department officials claim they are not bound and will not furnish the record of the arrest. The Police Department claim that the only information they give out is in relation to accidents."

ABBEY'S BODY CREMATED. Ashes of American Artist Then Buried in English Churchyard.

LONDON, Aug. 2.—The body of Edwin J. Abbey, the celebrated American painter, was cremated today and the ashes buried at Kingbury Old Church, near Willesden. American Ambassador Reid and a number of other Americans were present. Mr. Reid sent a wreath on behalf of the artist's native land.

The Royal Academy sent a broken harp formed of laurel leaves and bearing the words "In Memoriam." The casket was of bronze and covered with a white silk pall. Mrs. Abbey stood by the grave during the brief committal service. John Seymour Lucas, the painter, represented Friends of the artist, and among others present were Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, J. J. Shannon, Sir Edward Poynter, several other members of the Royal Academy and Mrs. Reid.

MILITARY CADETS WANTED. One Hundred Vacancies in the Class Entering Next Year.

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There are now one hundred vacancies in the class entering next year for which no candidates have been presented. These vacancies extend to nearly every State and Territory.

BABY SWALLOWS SCARF. Rushed to Hospital, but the Child is Likely to Die.

While Patrick Gibbons, a year old, was playing in the front room of his home at No. 86 First avenue, his mother soon he accidentally swallowed a scarf. He was able to make noise enough to attract his mother, who felt the pin in the child's throat.

A policeman sent for an ambulance from Flower Hospital and Dr. Schmal hurried the infant to that institution. The child was bleeding profusely and there were fears for its life.

GREEK STATESMEN COMING. Spartans Will Visit Big Cities and Meet President.

Greek statesmen, members of a branch of their Government similar to our Congress, are passengers on the steamship Athina, which is due to arrive here to-morrow from Patras. The visitors are George Fecora and A. Kononou, both from Sparta.

A large delegation of Greeks, headed by Sorrento Passanemetti, have organized to give them a good reception. The Congress are on a two months' vacation. They intend visiting Washington and other cities of the States. They are to be presented to President Taft.

Platt's Chlorides The Odorless Disinfectant Prevents Disease

14th St. Upholstery Co. 33 W. 14th St. Phone 5-1111. SEAT COVERS, CURTAINS, etc. Bound with elegant designs. Reupholstering in Taxidermy of Wild Birds.

LAWYER'S WIFE WILL SUE FOR FALSE ARREST

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Rozella, a brawny six-footer, nineteen years old, came to this country about a year ago to marry Sophie Penedites, who had sailed away from Sumlin, Pa., two years ago, after pleading eternal fidelity to the youth of her heart. Kalk became apprenticed to a master musician in Milwaukee, and promptly proceeded to fall in love with the daughter of the house. But he kept up his correspondence with Sophie, and when she sent him \$50 for his passage money, he came right on to South Sharon and married her his happy bride.

But the timidity's daughter wrote him love notes, and her suitors were so potent that he decided to go back to her. So yesterday he borrowed money right and left from his acquaintances in the town and started for New York, carrying with him his wife's nickel-case watch. Wherefore, he is charged with petty larceny as well as abandonment.

Mrs. Lillian Kennedy, wife of a well-known member of the New York Bar, according to R. J. S. Putnam of No. 21 Nassau street, who appeared for her in the Supreme